

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

July 8, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held July 8, 2014, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING –

President Michelle Bernier called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. Michelle Bernier, Mr. Tim Taylor, Mr. Shaun Bill,
Mr. John Applen, Mr. Clint Heinold, Mr. Tom Neeley, Mrs. Kelly Scarfe

Audience Presentations –

Mr. Mike Vlahos, 120 N. Third Ave., Morton, thanked the Board of Education for listening to those that spoke at earlier meetings about their concerns for students with dyslexia. He thanked Ms. Ashby and Mrs. Lyons for their presentation at the June Board meeting and their research done using the National Dyslexic Association. He suggested four ways for the Board and district to proceed:

- Provide an inservice for teachers sometime during the 1st semester of this coming year
- Screen all 1st graders
- Use the Orton-Gillingham based program for dyslexic students
- Provide a recordkeeping system to track students from one grade to next

Dr. Hall thanked him and noted his suggestions will be taken into consideration.

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hall reported there were two Freedom of Information requests in the month of June. The [responses](#) to both are available on the District website.

Daily Physical Education Plan, 2015-2016 –

Dr. Teater reported on the plan for daily elementary Physical Education beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. He noted that at this time there is no ideal solution, but the administration believes that physical activity is beneficial to students. This is a temporary option until a more long term solution can be implemented. Staff members that worked on the P.E. plan include: Bob Becker (PE), Barb Blanco (6th Gr.), Julie Cassidy (PE), Michelle DeBoer (PE), Amy Frickleton (6th Gr.), Jeanette Grant (K), Olivia Miller (6th Gr.), Shane Rocke (Elem. Music), Therese Scifres (6th Gr.), Lindsey Welsh (4th Gr.), Ben Wellenreiter (JH Soc. St./MEA Pres.) and Shane Weyland (6th Gr.).

The plan for 2015-2016:

- Early Childhood and half day Kindergarten
 - No Music
 - Daily 10-minute PE taught by the classroom teacher in the classroom.
 - Provide a list of suggested activities for the classroom teacher.
 - Weekly 25-minute recess supervised by instructional aide.
 - Instructional aide support for bus pickup and drop off.
- Full day Kindergarten – Sixth Grade
 - Daily 25-minute PE taught 4-days a week by PE teacher and 1-day by classroom teacher
 - PE taught in combination of gym/cafeteria, activity room and outside.
 - Provide a list of suggested activities for the classroom teacher.
 - Consideration of adjusting schedules to restore 50-minutes of contact time with classroom teacher.

Additional Provisions

- Suggested activities will be developed by PE personnel during the 2014-2015 school year.
- Additional 2 FTE *estimated*, possibly through 3 part time positions
- Activity space:
 - Brown-classroom used for meetings
 - Lincoln-RTI classroom
 - Grundy-Art/Science classroom
 - Jefferson-cafeteria
- Space
 - Portable structures
- Budget for additional needed equipment

Board member comments included the desire to not have to use portable classrooms if at all possible, accelerating a plan to add cafeterias or gyms and disappointment that music will be removed from the ½ day programs.

Facilities Update –

Dr. Hall reported that:

- The heating system project continues to go well at the high school. All old univents were removed from the building on Saturday, June 28 and the asbestos abatement was completed on July 3. Board members had a walk-through of the high school heating project prior to the board meeting. The project is progressing and Dr. Hall commended everyone involved including district employees who are an integral part of the project. She

noted she has had comments from contractors concerning the teamwork of district employees.

- The Jefferson blacktop project has been delayed due to rain in early July and issues with the subgrade that will need to be addressed so that the project can be completed in the best manner possible. The issues were discovered after removal of the old blacktop.
- Schematic drawings of the softball facility have been completed. Work can start in mid-September.
- Cost estimates/models from Farnsworth Group regarding the athletic facilities at MHS will be shared with administration and the Facilities Committee. These will be brought to the board on August 5.

Dr. Hall recommended that CropperGIS be retained to conduct a facilities utilization study. From a cost effectiveness standpoint, this will be less expensive than an architect and CropperGIS already has substantial information from the district to implement this study. There was a consensus from the Board of Education to proceed with CropperGIS for Phase 1 and 2. Phase 3 could be implemented later if needed.

Certified Staff Evaluation Update –

Dr. Ben Wellenreiter, MEA President, and Dr. Hall gave a presentation of the background of the new evaluation process, where the process is today and what still needs to take place in the future. The entire [presentation](#) is available as an archived meeting on MPTV beginning at the 1:03:55 point of the meeting. Mrs. Bernier thanked Mr. Wellenreiter for his leadership in the evaluation process.

Acknowledgement of Donation from Drexler Trust –

Dr. Hall reported that a gift of \$75,000 from the Drexler Trust has been donated to Morton School District to be used toward fine arts. Mr. William Drexler was a 1935 graduate of Morton High School.

President's Report –

Mrs. Bernier reported that the Finance Committee met to go over the tentative budget that will be presented later in the meeting, the Facilities Committee met to review preliminary work from Farnsworth and the Communication Committee met today and discussed ways to reach the grass roots of the community.

Discussion Items –**Board Goal Discussion – Overview for Upcoming School Year -**

Dr. Hall reviewed the Board goals for 2014-2015 and the action steps that were discussed at the Board's Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 5. Again this year, one goal per month will be discussed by the Board at its meetings.

Presentation of Preliminary Budget/Financial Projections -

Dr. Hall reviewed the tentative budget for the 2014-2015 year. She reported that the budget has been reviewed with the Superintendent's Finance Committee. Two large components of the budget are \$3.4 million of capital improvements in the O&M Fund and \$3.1 million to purchase the remaining plots of land, also in the O&M Fund. The capital improvements include \$1,500,000 for the High School heating system, \$1,250,000 for High School Athletic complex improvements, \$325,000 for High School girls softball field, \$180,000 for the Jefferson pavement project and \$96,000 for replacing Grundy's playground asphalt.

As a result of these large expenditures, the budget contains a one-time transfer from the Working Cash Fund to the O&M Fund in the amount of \$3.1 million and a one-time transfer from the Education Fund to the O&M Fund in the amount of \$3.0 million.

Education fund revenue is budgeted to increase by \$460,000 and O&M revenue is budgeted to increase by \$175,000 due almost exclusively to increased tax revenue. In order to help fund the cost of the building improvement projects, all Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) revenue and General State Aid (GSA) revenue is budgeted in the Operations and Maintenance budget with the exception of \$200,000 of GSA in the Education Fund and \$111,000 of CPPRT in the IMRF Fund. Both of these revenue types are being budgeted at the same level as last year. A solid local tax base continues to cushion the past reductions in state commitments.

Total salaries for all funds are expected to increase by \$630,000 or 3.95% over actual costs for the 2013-14 year. Several new certified positions were added in this year's budget - an additional Kindergarten teacher at Jefferson (funded by Title I), a new RtI teacher at Morton Junior High and a part time Business teacher at Morton High School. Medical benefits from all funds are expected to increase by \$530,000 over 2013-14 actual costs or 20%. Since we are self-funded for health insurance, claims can fluctuate greatly from year to year. The 2014-15 budget for health insurance expenditures is based on an actuarial study that the Unland Company provided. The large increase is a result of another low claims year. Claims for the 2013-14 year declined by \$7,000, resulting in a favorable budget variance of \$307,000.

Excluding the land purchase budgeted in the Operations and Maintenance Fund and the corresponding transfer from the Working Cash Fund and the \$3.0 million transfer from

the Education Fund, we are budgeting a deficit in the O&M Fund of \$1,230,000. This is due to the 5 year building improvement projects that are occurring in the summer of 2014 and that will occur in the summer of 2015.

The transportation fund and the IMRF fund are showing a budgeted deficit of \$85,000 and \$277,000, respectively. The 2013 levy for both of these funds was reduced in order to levy additional dollars in the O&M Fund due to the 5 year capital improvement plan. In addition, the amount of CPPRT that has been placed in the IMRF fund was reduced in the 2014-15 budget as well. Even with these budget deficits next year, the Transportation Fund will have 500 days reserve and the IMRF fund will have 301 days reserve at June 30, 2015. One new bus lease is planned in 2014-15 assuming annual lease payments of \$100,000 for each of five years. This will be the second bus lease with the first lease originating in the Spring of 2013.

Mrs. Getz reviewed financial projections for the next five years.

The entire [presentation](#) is available as an archived meeting on MPTV beginning at the 1:52:50 point of the meeting.

Action Item –

Approve Tax Abatement Agreement –

Dr. Hall reviewed the process used for the agreement reached for a matrix for tax abatement for Morton taxing bodies. Due to a desire to bring consistency to the process of offering incentives for businesses to locate within the District 709 boundaries, and with the realization that growth of our Equalized Assessed Evaluation (EAV) is essential to the financial health of our school district, especially in the area of commercial property growth, the Business Recruitment Committee, a sub-committee of the Morton Economic Development Committee, has been working for approximately the last 10 months on a matrix of criteria that addresses this issue. The result of this work is the proposed tax abatement agreement between the local taxing bodies. Models of other municipal agreements were examined, as well as strong consideration being given to local issues. The Board of Education discussed the agreement at its June 3, 2014, meeting. The Superintendent's Finance Committee reviewed it on April 7, 2014 and recommends approving the agreement as written. Other taxing bodies have reviewed this agreement and support its adoption.

Motion by Mrs. Scarfe, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education approve the intergovernmental tax abatement agreement.

Roll Call:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Mr. Bill asked that Consent Agenda Item A - Personnel Report, be pulled from the consent agenda for a separate vote.

Motion by Mr. Applen, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approve Transportation Claim
- Approve May Treasurer’s Report
- Approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2014, Regular Meeting, the June 5, 2014, Committee of the Whole Meeting and the June 13, 2014, Special Meeting.
- Approve Bills and Payrolls

	Bills 6-6-14	Bills 6-13-14	Bills 6-20-14	Bills 6-27-14	Bills 6-30-14-14	Bills 7-1-14
Ed. Fund	\$8,885.63	\$210,077.04	\$2,941.08	\$7,464.02	\$108,028.37	\$ 44,617.99
Bldg. Fund	--	49,149.43	--		993,314.09	748.00
Trans. Fund	--	20,584.78	--		23,699.68	
Payroll Accts. Pay.	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tort	--	--	--	--	80,934.52	349,925.92
Fire & Safety	--	--	--	--	167,332.50	--

	Payroll 6-6-14	Payroll 6-20-14	Payroll 7-3-14
Ed. Fund	\$432,010.74	\$400,478.56	\$352,606.32
Bldg. Fund	34,521.68	53,888.13	55,647.24
Trans. Fund	12,711.24	9,264.92	7,069.76
Payroll Accts. Pay.	400,008.63	396,556.00	297,317.98

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 9:21 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Bill, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 10:20 p.m.

Approve Personnel Report –

Motion by Mr. Heinold, second by Mr. Taylor, that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report.

Roll Call: Yea 6 Nay 1 (Mr. Bill)

Motion carried.

Closed Session –

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Bill, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for consideration of appointment, employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of employees, student discipline, purchase of property, litigation and/or negotiations. (5 ILSC 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 10:21 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Applen, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 11:03 p.m.

July 8, 2014

8

Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Appen, second by Mr. Neeley, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote:

Yea 7

Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Bill, Secretary

Michelle Bernier, President